

The 25 winners of Business First's annual Excellence in Health Care awards make a difference in their workplaces every day.

BY MICHELLE CIOCI ADAMS – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST | APR 17, 2026



MARGERY STANTON OF BESTSELF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

These high-achieving professionals are physicians, nurses, administrators, board members, advocates or researchers – all people whose work has improved the way the health system operates in Western New York hospitals, labs, clinics, nonprofits and facilities.

Among those 25 is Margery Stanton of BestSelf Behavioral Health.

- **Years with company:** 15
- **Years in industry:** 19
- **Born in:** Buffalo
- **Lives in:** West Seneca
- **College:** Associate degree, humanities, Erie Community College; B.A., psychology, Hilbert College; M.S., psychology, and M.A., mental health counseling, Medaille University
- **Spouse:** Joseph
- **Children:** Ashley, Joseph Jr., Mathew, Melisa, Xavier, Ian, Zachary, Emma
- **Grandchildren:** Jackson, Lyla, Joseph III, Annabelle, Lucas, Mathew Jr., Aurora, Micah, Vivian, Alessandra, William, Maxwell
- **Credentials:** LMHC-D
- **Awards and achievements:** Health Fellows Graduate, Open Minds Executive Management Graduate

Proudest professional accomplishment: Opening the BestResponse Intensive Crisis Stabilization Center, not because of what it represents for me, but because of what it took to get here. This was a full team effort at BestSelf, backed by incredible community support, that brought a new service line to life.

First job: Lifeguard

Something you want to accomplish before you retire: I want to look back and know that Western New York is a healthier place — not just in services offered, but in how people think and talk about behavioral health. I want stigma to be smaller than it is today.

Something most people don't know about you: I was a synchronized swimmer who competed at the Junior Olympics — so I've always been drawn to pushing myself. But these days, nothing recharges me like hiking. Nature is where I finally get still.